

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 1, 2 and 4 will have been amended and claims 6-8 will have been canceled. Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Pub. No. 10-302328 (JP '328) and claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '328 (FIG. 3 in view of FIG. 4).

Applicants, however, respectfully traverse the above-noted rejections and submit that it is inappropriate for at least each of the following reasons.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims on these grounds, nevertheless, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 2 and 4 to clearly obviate the above noted grounds of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicants note that JP '328 fails to teach or suggest the subject matter claimed in amended claims 1, 2 and 4. In particular, claims 1, 2 and 4, as amended, recite, inter alia, an outer periphery of the stamper holder has a gradually increased diameter from an end of a reverse side toward an end of the molding structure to form a sloped surface, an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder opposite to an inner peripheral surface of the

stamper defining the insertion hole has a shape complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper.

Applicants submit that the embodiments of JP '328, alone or in any proper combination, lack any disclosure of *an outer periphery of the stamper holder having a gradually increased diameter from an end of a reverse side toward an end of the molding structure to form a sloped surface, an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder opposite to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole has a shape complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper.*

The Examiner cites to JP '328, FIG. 3, as disclosing a stamper holder configured such that an outer periphery of the stamper holder has an increased diameter on a side from an end of a reverse side toward an end of the molding structure to form a sloped surface. However, Applicants submit that JP '328 in FIG. 3 at the most discloses a *part* of the inner peripheral surface of the stamper configured to be sloped, i.e. part of the stamper holder that engages stamper 111 is a axially extending surface. Additionally, the stamper holder of a feature of an embodiment of the present invention, having an entire area instead of a part of the periphery contact the stamper, allows for much easier centering and further securement of the stamper. Thus, JP '328 lacks any teaching of an entire outer periphery of the stamper holder having a shape complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper.

Applicants note that another feature of an embodiment of the present invention, as recited in claims 3 and 5, is to provide a stamper holder *configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface.* Applicants

note that this feature allows for reduced wear of the stamper, prevention of displacement of the stamper during molding and positioning of the stamper with a high accuracy, resulting in a high quality substrate (see Specification page 18, lines 1-6 and 20-26). Applicants submit that JP '328, lacks any disclosure of the recited combination of elements, including the advantages of having a stamper holder configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface.

Moreover, Applicants submit that neither JP '328 FIG. 3 or FIG. 4, alone in any proper combination, supply the deficiencies of JP '328 FIG. 3. JP '328 FIG. 3 purportedly shows a sloped outer periphery of the stamper holder. JP '328 FIG. 4 purportedly discloses the stamper holder being flushed with the molding surface. However, even assuming, arguendo, that these features are disclosed, JP '328 FIG. 3 and JP '328 FIG. 4 still fail to disclose the combination of elements as discussed above, particularly, *an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder opposite to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole having a shape complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper*. Further, Applicant submits the Examiner has not provided sufficient motivation to modify the teachings of JP '328 FIG. 3 in view of JP '328 FIG. 4, and that the only reason to combine the teachings of the applied patent results from a review of Applicants' disclosure and the application of impermissible hindsight.

In view of the amendments and arguments herein, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 2 and 4 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 3 and 5, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as

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because they depend from independent claims 2 and 4, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

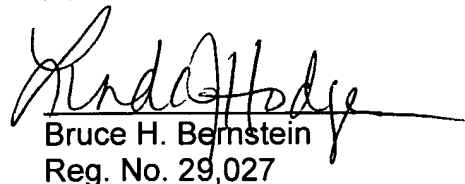
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims made in this amendment, and which have not been made to overcome the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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